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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee (Part III)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Ahmed Yousif MOHAMED (Sudan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on item 88 (see A/49/728, para. 2). Action to be taken on sub-item (b) was considered at the 30th and 33rd meetings, on 29 November and 9 December 1994. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/49/SR.30 and 33).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/49/L.40 and L.62

2. At the 29th meeting, on 23 November, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Food and agricultural development" (A/C.2/49/L.40), which read:

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* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/49/728 and addenda.

"Food and agricultural development

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming the importance and continued validity of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, 1/ the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 2/ the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, 3/ the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, 4/ the Cartagena Commitment, 5/ Agenda 21, 6/ and the various consensus agreements and conventions that were adopted in the context of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

"Reaffirming also its resolutions 45/207 of 21 December 1990, 47/149 of 18 December 1992 and 47/193 of 22 December 1992,

"Recognizing that freshwater resources are a scarce commodity in a growing number of countries and that there is a need to increase food production in developing countries, in part through the improved use of irrigation and water resource management suitable for agricultural production,

"Recognizing the work undertaken by the Commission on Sustainable Development in the area of freshwater resources,

"Stressing with concern that hunger and malnutrition have been increasing in many countries, particularly in Africa,

"Stressing the need to provide the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system that operate in the areas of food and agriculture

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1/ Resolution S-18/3, annex.

2/ Resolution 45/199, annex.

3/ Resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.

4/ Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September 1990 (A/CONF.147/18), part one.

5/ TD/364, part one, sect. A, "A New Partnership for Development: The Cartagena Commitment", adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its eighth session, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 8 to 25 February 1992.

6/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

with increased adequate resources in order that they may implement their mandates,

"Recognizing the importance of stimulating food production and productivity in developing countries through appropriate policies, taking fully into account Agenda 21, and by ensuring a sustainable economic environment, including a more open trading system, for the development of a viable agricultural sector and improved food security, and in that context stressing the importance of the urgent and full implementation of the agreements contained in the Final Act embodying the results of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations,

"1. Takes note with interest of the report of the Secretary-General on food production, including agro-industrial products, international markets for agricultural and tropical products and global food security; 7/

"2. Notes with concern that in the face of the enormous challenges in the area of agricultural development, the resource allocation for the development of food and agriculture in developing countries has continued to decline;

"3. Urges the international community to place food and agricultural development high on the development agenda and to mobilize resources at the national, bilateral and multilateral levels in support of sustainable productive agriculture and food security in developing countries;

"4. Notes with satisfaction the individual and collaborative efforts of the food and agriculture bodies based in Rome, namely the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme, and welcomes in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization's special programme on food production or food security in low-income food-deficit countries;

"5. Notes that the agreements reached in the context of the Final Act of the Uruguay Round will have an important impact on the development of food production, agro-industrial products and international markets for agricultural and tropical products, as well as on global food security;

"6. Calls on donor countries to support the Food and Agriculture Organization's special programme on the Uruguay Round decision on measures concerning the possible negative effects of the reform programme on least developed and net food-importing developing countries;

"7. Urges the international community to give special attention to the promotion and revitalization of economic growth and development in developing countries, through, inter alia, a more diversified food and agricultural sector, focusing in particular on agro-industrial activities in developing countries;

7/ A/49/438.

"8. Invites the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as the multilateral financial institutions working in the field of food and agriculture, to support developing country efforts in the development of small- and medium-sized agro-industries and in the improvement of processing, transportation, distribution and marketing modalities of their food and other agricultural products;

"9. Urges all countries, particularly developed countries, to strengthen their efforts to work towards a more equitable international economic environment, in particular regarding a fairer, more open and more viable agricultural trading system that will stimulate food production and productivity in developing countries;

"10. Welcomes the successful conclusion of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, 8/ hopes that the Convention will attract the support of the international community towards solving the important problem confronting Africa in that area, and in that regard supports the contribution made by, inter alia, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development to deal with the problem of land degradation in Africa, and invites those organizations to consider extending their programmes to other affected regions;

"11. Recommends to the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as the multilateral financial institutions, in close cooperation with the countries concerned, that they carry out jointly an in-depth assessment of global freshwater resources and their use by each country to identify problems that either are critical at present or will be critical in the near future, and that they recommend strategies and policies to avoid a global freshwater crisis;

"12. Requests the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as the multilateral financial institutions, to assist interested developing countries in the formulation and implementation of national water policies and strategies;

"13. Invites Governments, international organizations and, as appropriate, scientific-technical organizations to promote sustainable water use for food production and rural development by improving the efficiency of current water use for irrigation in developing countries, particularly at the village level;

"14. Requests relevant regional and international organizations to assist the cooperative efforts of developing countries in the area of sustainable and integrated water management aimed at augmenting water resources in order to meet the increased demand for those resources;

8/ A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

"15. Welcomes the pledges that have been made by Member States to the Fourth Replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and in that context invites countries that have not yet done so to announce their pledges as soon as possible, taking into account the decisions taken by the Fund's Special Committee on Resource Requirements and Related Governance Issues;

"16. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, focusing in particular on the use of freshwater resources, as well as on the effects of the results of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations on food production, including agro-industrial products and global food security in developing countries;

"17. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session the sub-item entitled 'Food and agricultural development' under the item entitled 'Sustainable Development and International Economic Cooperation: Food and Agricultural Development'."

3. At the 33rd meeting, on 9 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Raiko S. Raichev (Bulgaria), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Food and agricultural development" (A/C.2/49/L.62), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.40

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.62 without a vote (see para. 7).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.62, draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.40 was withdrawn by its sponsor.

B. Draft decision

6. At its 33rd meeting on 9 December, the Committee decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations submitted under agenda item 88 (b) (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Food and agricultural development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance and continued validity of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, 9/ the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 10/ the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, 11/ the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, 12/ the Cartagena Commitment, 13/ Agenda 21, 14/ and the various consensus agreements and conventions that were adopted in the context of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Reaffirming also its resolutions 45/207 of 21 December 1990, 47/149 of 18 December 1992 and 47/193 of 22 December 1992,

Recognizing that freshwater resources are a scarce commodity in a growing number of countries and that there is a need to increase food production in developing countries, in part through the improved use of irrigation and water resource management suitable for agricultural production, and stressing in this context the need to give special attention to the issues agreed upon by the Commission on Sustainable Development, in particular those in paragraph 139 of the report of the Commission on its second session, 15/

Recognizing the importance of rehabilitating and upgrading present projects and conserving scarce water and land resources by the improved use of irrigation and water-resource management for agricultural production,

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9/ Resolution S-18/3, annex.

10/ Resolution 45/199, annex.

11/ Resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.

12/ Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September 1990 (A/CONF.147/18), part one.

13/ TD/364, part one, sect. A, "A New Partnership for Development: The Cartagena Commitment", adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its eighth session, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 8 to 25 February 1992.

14/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

15/ E/1994/33.

Stressing the importance of the full implementation of the decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development and, in particular, recognizing the importance of the work undertaken by the Commission in the area of freshwater resources,

Stressing with concern that hunger and malnutrition have been increasing in many countries, particularly in Africa,

Reaffirming its commitment to helping to improve the living conditions of rural women, recognizing their critical role as farmers and food producers,

Stressing the need to provide the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system that operate in the areas of food and agriculture with adequate resources to implement their mandates,

Recognizing the importance of stimulating food production and productivity in developing countries through appropriate policies, taking fully into account Agenda 21, 14/ in particular its chapter 14, and of ensuring a sustainable economic environment, including a more open trading system, for the development of a viable agricultural sector and improved food security,

1. Takes note with interest of the report of the Secretary-General on food production, including agro-industrial products, international markets for agricultural and tropical products and global food security; 16/

2. Notes with concern that, in the face of the enormous challenges in the area of agricultural development and food security, the overall resource allocation for the development of food and agriculture in developing countries has continued to decline;

3. Urges the international community to place food and agricultural development high on the development agenda and to mobilize resources at the national, bilateral and multilateral levels in support of sustainable productive agriculture and food security in developing countries;

4. Affirms that increasing food production and improving access to food by low-income people in developing countries will contribute to the alleviation of poverty and the elimination of malnutrition and help to raise their standard of living;

5. Notes that the agreements reached in the context of the Final Act of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations have established a basis for initiating a process of reform of trade in agriculture and will have an important impact on the development of food production, agro-industrial products and international markets for agricultural and tropical products and on global food security;

6. Urges all countries, particularly developed countries, to strengthen their efforts to create a more favourable international economic environment, in

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16/ A/49/438.

particular a more open agricultural trading system which will stimulate food production and productivity in developing countries, and in this context stresses the importance of the urgent and full implementation of the agreements contained in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round;

7. Notes with satisfaction the individual and collaborative efforts of the food and agricultural bodies based in Rome, namely, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme, calls upon these organizations to strengthen their collaboration in the area of food and agriculture, including with the United Nations Development Programme, and welcomes the programmes of these organizations directed to food production for food security in low-income food-deficit countries, including the initiation of two special programmes of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

8. Attaches special importance to the assistance from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to developing countries on policy transformation and technical assistance in the light of the Final Act of the Uruguay Round and in the context of the Uruguay Round decision on measures concerning the possible negative effects of the reform programme on least developed and net food-importing developing countries;

9. Urges the international community to give special attention to the promotion and revitalization of economic growth and sustainable development in developing countries through, inter alia, a more diversified food and agricultural sector, focusing in particular on agro-industrial activities in developing countries;

10. Invites the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and the multilateral financial institutions working in the field of food and agriculture to support developing country efforts in the development of small and medium-sized agro-industries and cooperatives and in the improvement of processing, transportation, distribution and marketing modalities of their food and other agricultural products;

11. Welcomes the successful conclusion of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, 17/ hopes that the Convention will attract the support of the international community towards solving the important problem confronting, in particular, Africa in that area, and in that regard supports the contribution made by, inter alia, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development to deal with the problem of land degradation in Africa, and invites those organizations to consider extending their programmes to other affected regions;

12. Urges relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, the multilateral financial institutions and non-governmental organizations to strengthen their efforts towards a comprehensive assessment of freshwater

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17/ A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

resources, with the aim of identifying the availability of such resources, making projections of future needs and identifying problems to be considered by the General Assembly at its special session in 1997;

13. Requests the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and the multilateral financial institutions to assist interested developing countries in the formulation and implementation of national water policies and strategies;

14. Invites Governments, international organizations and, as appropriate, scientific/technical organizations to promote sustainable water use for food production and rural development by improving the efficiency of current water use for irrigation in developing countries, particularly at the village level;

15. Requests the relevant regional and international organizations to assist the cooperative efforts of developing countries in the area of conservation, sustainable use and integrated water management, and stresses the need for full implementation of the decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, particularly in the area of freshwater;

16. Welcomes the pledges that have been made by Member States to the Fourth Replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and in that context invites countries that have not yet done so to consider their pledges as soon as possible, taking into account the decisions taken by the Fund's Special Committee on Resource Requirements and Related Governance Issues;

17. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, focusing in particular on the use of freshwater resources, as well as on the effects of the results of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations on food production, including agro-industrial products and global food security in developing countries;

18. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session the sub-item entitled "Food and agricultural development" under the item entitled "Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: food and agricultural development".

8. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on emergency action to combat locust infestation in Africa

The General Assembly decides to take note of the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on emergency action to combat locust infestation in Africa. 18/

18/ A/49/507.